11/17/72 Baton Rouge murders

Ian Mc onald phoned this p,m. to report news from the wire confirming my predictions to him of yesterday and on his conversation with Ben Smith, white New Orleans lawyer to whomI'd referred him for current backgrounding. Ben appears to be trying to get black lawyers to do something. I infer not one was on his own. This and the lack of real protest provide a reading on the depressed mood, the permeating feeling of futility among the young. (Radio report tonight says the largest protest was at the Univ. of Minnesota, of 200!) One of the things I told Ian had to have happened, whether or not announced, is an FBI investigation. The Civil Rights Act requires it, thus enabling it. This means the FBI will suppress the evidence in perpetuity and will have seized all of it.Unless one could expect an indictment ecen as gross a coverup as the WG indictment. Which could be worse. The switching governor has already justified the police if they did it and explained how "natural" it was for them to. In his series of positions, the one before this was cute. I taped it from CBS-TV tonight. He started to say the state police-not until then mentioned once-has no shotguns, corrected himself to say deputy sheriff's. Who did. "State P" came out before he gagged. The CBS news also confirmed mein saying that its footage is what the gov saw yesterday. Not NBC's, which was both local and definitive. NBC's leaves no doubt. The silence from Camp David is Nixon's endorsement of his prediction:no more "permissiveness". Why let black protesters live? They can be killed. It is not "permissive" to be able to punush murder, so it won t be done. Or, the worst of both worlds. The Post did not editorialize this a.m. Their story is by the long-time Baton Rouge correspondent for the States-Item, Lynch, whose continuing employment requires "in" state political sources and access to them and trust by them. It remains to be seen whether the little good in this one is reflected in future coverage. It is not safe for him if he continues to say even a little of what should be reported....Nobody has yet pointed out that either an order to fire was given or the police fired without authorization. The sheriff said he gave no order to fire anything. And there were orders not to shoot unless ordered. o self-defense, no legal sanction. No accident, either, according to a student leader, who claims witnesses to the police picking up and pocketing their empty shells. "Natural" or "accidental"?